they were going back in respect of education. They therefore wanted the following concessions from Government :—

1. Their pupils should be granted half-fee concession in all schools.

2. Qualified candidates among them should be entertained in the public service.

3. Representatives of the community should be nominated to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Legislative Council, the various Municipal Councils, Panchayat Courts etc.

DEWAN'S REPLY. Mr. Manikkam Pillai, the Ezhur Chetties, like all the other Chetties of the State, will have equal opportunities of getting appointments in the State with the members of other communities, and it will all depend upon whether they are qualified and, if so, to what extent, for the various appointments in the service which they seek.

172. Public Service.

MR. K. C. EAPEN (*Member, Mercantile and Trading Classes, Trivandrum*) said that the public service should exist only for serving society. That was the ideal to be kept in view by all members of the public service. But most of them were never alive to this high aspect of the service to which they belonged. They were often actuated by personal prejudices and communal partiality. In one sense the principle of communal representation in the public service was causing much evil. But it was not a principle which could be ignored. Every community should be treated in a fair and equitable manner. Government were indeed trying their best to conform to this principle. Heads of departments, however, were not very scrupulous in their adherence to it. Hence it was that people were clamouring for representation of communities in mathematical proportion to their numerical strength. This was certainly an impossible ideal to achieve.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. K. C. Eapen, it is very refreshing in the wilderness of representations pleading for special communal privileges, to come across one crying out solely for the efficiency and purity of the public service. It is several years now since the good fellowship and the tranquillity of this country began to be decimated by an infection which came over the border like the plague and the cholera we recently had. Like all pestilential epidemics it must reach its zenith sooner or later. I trust we are now at the highest point of the communal scourge and let us hope and pray that, from now forward, it may decline, decay and disappear from the country.

173. Public Service.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery*) said that no foreigner should be entertained in the public service. The pay of high officers should be reduced and that of officers in the subordinate service should be enhanced. Efficiency should be the prime consideration in the selection of officers. The aim of the Government should be to satisfy the people not by the distribution of appointments but by the just and equitable fulfilment of

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administrative functions. Sinecure posts wherever they existed should be abolished. Government should be scrupulously careful to appoint only persons of well-known ability as officers in the Judicial Department. Promotions in every department should be given according to efficiency and not according to the accidents of rank or grade. Medical officers in the Government service should not be allowed to get fee for their services.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr Parameswaran Pillai, much of what you referred to has been covered by previous remarks of mine and whatever else remains will receive attention if you hand over your representation to me.

174, Administrative reforms.

MR. K. G. THOMAS (*Member, Mavelikara taluk*) said that agricultural panchayats should be established all over the State. The number of those who followed agriculture as their profession in the State was 23 lakhs. The Statistical Volume published by Government and the Census Report gave a different number, but that was a mistake. Many of the figures given in the Statistical Volume especially were incorrect. This could be readily illustrated by a reference to the figures given in it of the quantity of rice and paddy imported into the State. That was by the way. The condition of the greater majority of the 23 lakhs of agriculturists was very poor. On account of poverty and insanitary living they had fallen a prey to many diseases. Another feature of the countryside was the absence of efficient means of communication. There was also a remarkable scarcity of educational institutions. That was the present-day condition of the rural areas of Travancore. It was high time that this state of affairs should become a thing of the past.

An economic survey of the rural areas should be conducted soon.

A development department should be organised. The Economic Development Board was of little real use to the agricultural population. Hence the need for a new department.

An agricultural conference should be held at which the needs of the agriculturists should be ascertained at first hand and the necessary measures devised for improving their lot.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Thomas, the collection of figures regarding imports—you referred to rice in particular—is not made in the casual manner you conjecture. They are based on shipping documents, invoices and bills of trade.

As regards agriculture, I quite agree with you that a great deal can be done and should be done. I also agree with you that, as is the case with communications, dispensaries and so on, so also in the case of agriculture, there is scope for closer touch between the officers and the cultivators. The question of larger activities in the development and

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